

pittsburgh applause!

arts & entertainment newsletter

Comcast-TWC Deal Dies Amid Opposition

The planned \$45 billion merger between **Comcast** and **Time-Warner Cable** has collapsed.



Comcast, which also owns entertainment giant NBC-Universal, operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise. Comcast CEO Brian L. Roberts made the announcement on April 24.

Through a series of articles published in the *New York Times*, journalists Jo Becker, David Gelles, Jonathan Mahlar, Mike McIntire and Hilary Stout report that a growing and determined opposition made it likely that a combination would not be accepted by federal regulators. The biggest obstacle turned out to be the one Comcast touted as the most beneficial: broadband.

Mahler explains that once it became clear that a single firm would be controlling 40% of the nation's broadband traffic that a coalition ranging from streaming services to consumer groups rose in opposition.

The Pittsburgh-based **American Cable Association** (ACA) is among those pleased with the failure and in a press release stated that such vertical integration harms distributors and consumers.

In other news, it is looking less and less likely that anchor Brian Williams will be returning to "The NBC Nightly News." Ravi Somaiya writes in the *New York Times* that an internal investigation "has examined half-dozen instances" of questionable reporting or claims. These include at least one that has not been made public.

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Local DJ Suspended After Freddie Gray Posting

A popular disc jockey at local radio station WAMO has been suspended, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Maria Sciallo.

WAMO has been owned by **Martz Communications Group**, which is based in a rural Upstate New York village named Malone.

Mike "DJ Mike Jax" Jackson had brought the station into the political and social issues involved Freddie Gray Jr., a young African-American man from Baltimore

who suffered fatal injuries while in police custody. Wikipedia offers a regularly updated capsule of the incident and its aftermath at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Freddie_Gray

Jackson had posted a list on the mobile image-sharing site Instagram showing Gray's previous arrests for drug-related offenses. The list has since been removed and Mike Jax has posted an apology on his Instagram page.

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Warhol Museum Gets New Curators

Bartholomew Ryan has been appointed the Milton Fine Curator of Art at the Andy Warhol Museum.

CARNEGIE MUSEUMS OF PITTSBURGH

Opened in 1994, it is the largest museum in the country dedicated to a single artist, Pittsburgh native and pop art icon Andy Warhol (1928-1987). The Warhol is a component of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**.

A museum press release explains that Ryan has degrees from Bard College and Trinity College Dublin and has worked on various high-profile exhibitions including

the successful “International Pop” at Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.

“The entire team at The Warhol is thrilled to welcome Bartholomew Ryan,” says museum director Eric Shiner. The Warhol’s in the same press release. “Bartholomew is one of the most dynamic young curators in America today, and his exhibition record and deep working relationships with some of today’s most compelling artists make him a perfect fit for The Warhol. Bartholomew also has a great track record working with and supporting local artists—something incredibly important to us in Pittsburgh—and his upbeat personality and curious mind will greatly complement our work at the museum.”

Later in April, the museum announced that Keny Marshall --- who has been a consultant at the Warhol --- has been named its new Director of Exhibitions. A separate press release reads that he has also worked with a number of museums to oversee various facets of exhibition production and installation, including at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas; Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles; State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg; and The Warhol’s sister institution Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh.”

Marshall assumed his role on April 28. Ryan assumes his position on May 18.

Free Calendar Listing for Downtown Events

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www.DowntownPittsburgh.com/events/suggest

Fernandez Named CBS Radio Chief

CBS Radio has a new president: Andre J. Fernandez, the company announced on April 13.



In Pittsburgh, **CBS Corporation** owns three radio and two television stations, most notably KDKA-AM and KDKA-TV. Fernandez will oversee the entire radio division, which includes KDKA-AM and 116 other stations in 26 markets.

“Andre is a terrific executive who brings a wealth of experience to

this role – operations, financial management, programming and digital distribution, among many other attributes,” said CBS CEO Leslie Moonves in a press release. “He has had great success working in large and mid-sized markets, which has primed him to lead our major market operations. I’m confident Andre’s many qualities will make him a superb manager and help build upon an incredible foundation at CBS Radio.”

Fernandez succeeds the retiring Dan Mason, who has been with the company for 17 years.

New Wherever TV CEO

Edward Ciofani has been appointed the new CEO of Wherever.

Founded in 2007 and based in Pittsburgh, **Wherever TV Broadcasting** is a

subscription internet service that provides television programming to everything from television sets to smartphones.

“As CEO, Edward Ciofani will lead WhereverTV in the development of plans for strategic growth and in the effort to implement and finance those plans,” the company explains in a press release. Ciofani has nearly three decades of corporate finance experience,

although the press release does not mention any with an entertainment company.

More about Whenever can be found by clicking www.whenever.tv



Cullen Quits QED Show

Popular local talk show host Lynn Cullen has ended her three-year participation on **WQED Multimedia’s** “4802” panel TV program. The news was reported in the April 22 edition of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* by Maria Scullo.

Cullen found herself in what Scullo describes as “a tense verbal [on -air] exchange with panelist Heather Heidelbaugh, attorney and Allegheny County councilwoman.” The subject at hand was raising the U.S. minimum wage, which Cullen supports but that Republican Heidelbaugh doesn’t.



You can read Scullo’s report on the incident and its fall out at <http://www.post-gazette.com/aec/tv-radio/2015/04/22/Lynn-Cullen-takes-her-leave-of-WQED-program-4802/stories/201504220033>





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Growing IATSE Seeks More New Members

Pittsburgh's increasing number of film and television projects has increased something else --- the need of unionized professionals to work on them, reports Jason Cato in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.



The **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees** (IATSE) was founded in 1893 and represents nearly 122,000 craftspeople in the entertainment industry. Pittsburgh has hundreds of members in three locals.

"We are having a shortage of film -industry carpenters," Cato quotes Dawn Keezer, director of the **Pittsburgh Film Office**. "Right now, we are so busy. And there is more work coming."

Productions include the cable television series "Banshee" (which has recently moved here from North Carolina) and "American Pastoral," which will star and be directed by Ewan McGregor.

Cato also reports that IATSE Local 489 has recently boosted its membership by 38, bringing the total to 350 with at least 50 more needed. To learn more about membership, visit www.iatse489.org.

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Animal's Daring Ukraine Documentary Project

Barbara Vancheri of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* recently interviewed Pittsburgh writer-director Steve Hoover and his partner producer Danny Yourd about their new documentary, "Crocodile Gennadiy."



"Crocodile Gennadiy" just made its debut at the prestigious Tribeca Film Festival. The film follows a strong-willed pastor as he tries to rescue homeless, drug-addicted

children from the streets of a city Mariupol --- which, being in the southeastern part of Ukraine, became part of the ongoing tumult between the country and Russian separatists. Mariupol's fascinating history is available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariupol>

The film was a project of local production company **Animal**. "Our hope is to get as much distribution as possible for it, for as many people just to see the

film, to find places in Europe and Eastern Europe where it can be screened," Hoover tells Vancheri. "Really, all around the world. We just want to share the story."

Check out her article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/movies/2015/04/17/Pittsburgh-filmmakers-dodge-death-in-making-documentary/stories/201504170094>

Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh's arts & entertainment history and community.

Artists Use Web To Partner

Pittsburgh artist and entrepreneur Frank Bachurski of the local media/event company **Faded Industry Entertainment** has announced a new collaboration.

Bachurski explained in an email to *Pittsburgh Applause* that he and North Carolina artist Chris Wheeler "were introduced to each other's work on Instagram and thought that the two styles would work well with one another."



Legendary jazz crooner George Benson is among the artists coming to Pittsburgh this may for a show.

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at jim@james-richards.com

Casting Call For Local Reality TV Show

Production company **All3Media** has put out a casting notice to create a reality television series about a Pittsburgh family.



All3Media is the United Kingdom's largest independent film and television production company. Formed in 2003, its best known American program is CBS' "Undercover Boss."

According to Rob Owen in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, "producers are specifically

looking for a multigenerational family that includes "a crazy grandparent" or parents who have kids in the 18-25 age range living at home."

Owen's article at <http://www.post-gazette.com/ae/tv-radio/2015/04/15/TV-reality-series-Yinzers-All3Media-Mayor-Bill-Peduto/stories/201504150214> includes more specifics on what the producers want. Interested parties should email information and photos to YinzerFamilyCasting@gmail.com

Learn more about the company at www.all3a.com.

New Social Art Program

A new program of small, socially-centered program of courses is being launched by the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.

EDMC

Education Management Corporation

The Art Institute chain of schools is owned by Pittsburgh-based **Education Management Corporation** (EDMC). The Pittsburgh school is the chain's flagship.

A press release explains that the classes "are meant to be short workshops in anything from cooking, jewelry making, photography, baking, painting, wine

tasting and more. They take place in classrooms downtown, are taught by professionals in the field and can be from 1- 4 sessions."

For more information on Get Creative, visit <http://getcreative.artinstitutes.edu/pittsburgh/>



City Theatre Honors Two

Local artist Carlyn Aquiline and community leader Iris Amper Walker have been bestowed the 21st annual Frankel Award, **City Theatre** announced early last month



The nonprofit City Theatre is currently in its 40th anniversary season specializes in new plays, commissioning and producing work by playwrights. Named in honor of Robert M. Frankel, a cultural leader and City Theatre Lifetime Board Member, the annual award ceremony commemorates outstanding artistic and philanthropic contributions to Pittsburgh's theatre community.

In a press release, the company cites Aquiline's as literary manager and dramaturge at City Theatre along with other troupes while praising Walker not only for her time volunteering for City but for other local arts and nonprofit organizations including **QED Multimedia**, **Pittsburgh Public Theater** and the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** along with charities like the **Make-A-Wish Foundation**.

A ceremony honoring the two women was held in the theater on April 7.

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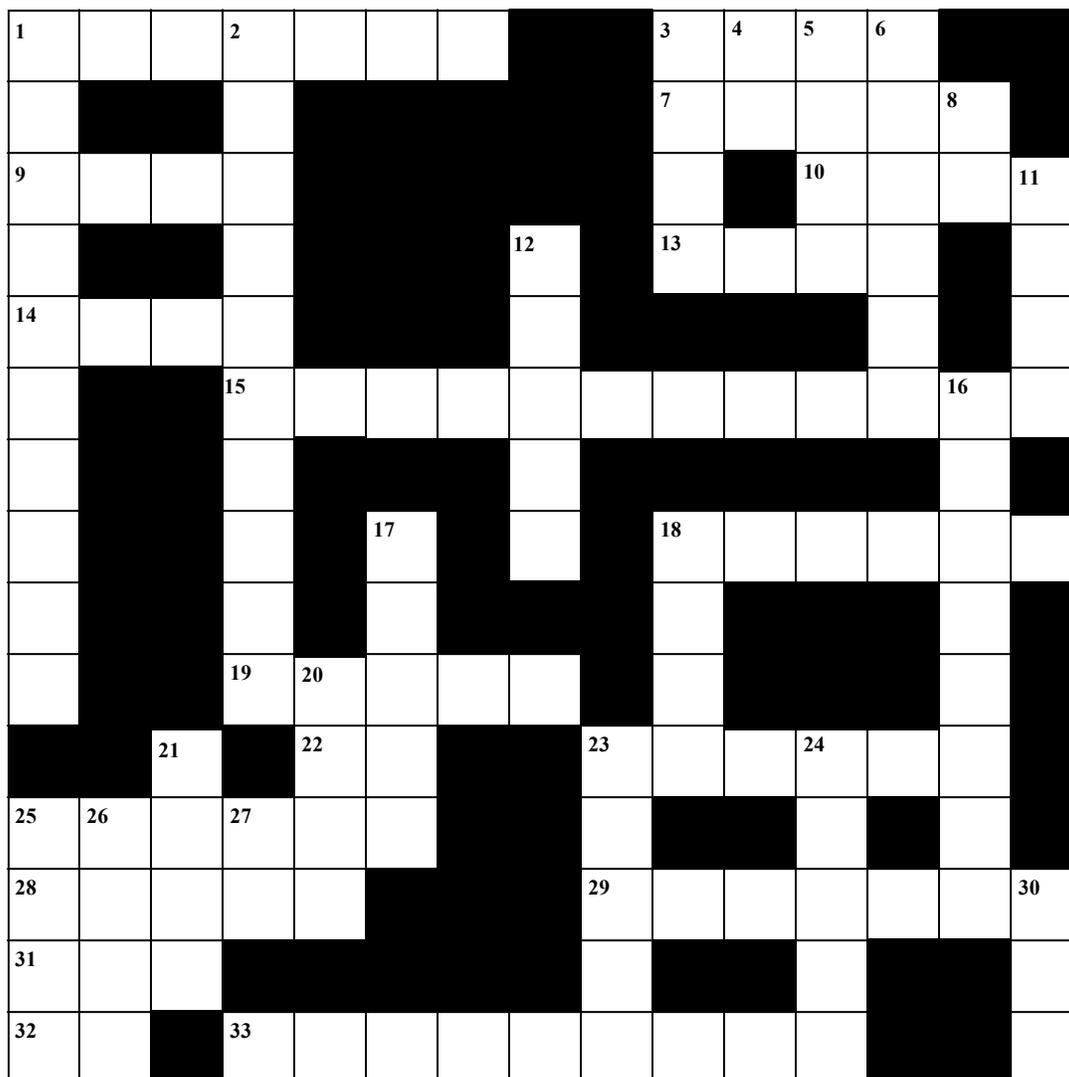
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3. Living rooms and kitchens on TV shows
7. Greg & Marcia’s mom
9. Country music mom
10. Not close
13. Part of STEM
14. Land measurement
15. She played the mom on “Lassie” and “Lost in Space”
18. She was mom to two Lionels
19. Alex Keaton’s mom
22. Lone Star school (abbr.)
23. AMC’s iconic drama
25. Orate
28. Kelly Bundy’s mom
29. Dave & Ricky Nelsons’ mom
31. Famous band (abbr.)
32. A pound or gram (abbr.)
33. The Ewing Family matriarch

DOWN

1. She played the mom on “227”
2. Healthy fruit beverage
3. Con
4. Single item (abbr.)
5. A horse’s gait
6. All her girls were golden
8. Famous South Korean rapper
11. Mom wants your room this way
12. Pebbles Flintstone’s mom
16. Blue collar mom of the 1980s
17. Gloria Stivic’s mom
18. She recently became a mom on “Archer”
20. She became a TV mom in front of millions of 1950s viewers
21. A brick toy
23. Taj _____
24. Bart & Lisa’s mom
25. Vomit
26. Animal skin
27. State’s prosecutor (abbr.)
30. A top or a yo-yo

Last Month’s Solution

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Pittsburgh Applause Editorial

So Very Sorry . . .

By James A. Richards

I have been swamped lately with a combination of health issues and projects, which is why this issue is a bit light.

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